

State of Maine Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP)

Monthly Update –February 2012 #35

State's Interoperability Vision

The State of Maine will have a firmly established, formally managed and maintainable communications environment, based on technology, protocols, training and usage, that will provide seamless communications capability to all emergency management, first responder, and response support organizations at the local, regional and State levels, enabling them to exchange information via voice and data means, as required by standard NIMS response procedures, to provide effective, coordinated and timely all hazards response to our citizens.

Maine Emergency Preparedness Conference

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



4th Annual

Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference

Augusta Civic Center

Tuesday & Wednesday • April 24 - 25, 2012

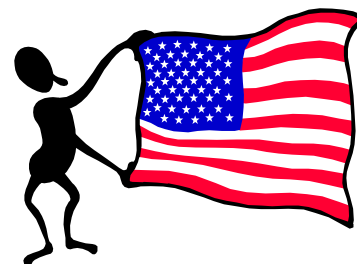
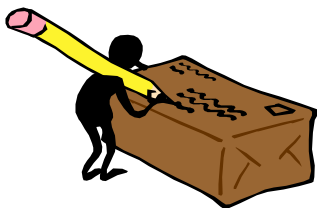
Hosted by: Maine Emergency Management Agency, International Association of Emergency Managers Region 1, State Emergency Response Commission and Maine Association for Local Emergency Managers

Partner with Over 400 • 1st Responders • Government Officials • Emergency Managers • Business Leaders
Educators • Health & Human Services Providers • Faith-Based Leaders • Private, Non-Profit Organizations

Register online beginning January 25, 2012 and

Visit www.maineprepares.com/conference for updates and registration instructions.

Don't miss this two day learning and networking experience with preparedness partners and exhibitors.



Cross Border Working Groups

The Cross Border Working Group continues to move forward with outreach meetings with our Canadian partners. Recently we held meetings in Farmington, Maine and in Armstrong, Quebec with our Canadian counterparts to discuss the B.I.G guide and the BIDP. Next week we will be headed to Fredericton, New Brunswick to discuss the same topics with our New Brunswick contingents. A genuine thanks to all that attend these meetings they are crucial with our cross border issues.



MSCommNet Major Project Challenges: One down, one to go!

OIT's (MSCommNet) Statewide Radio Project Office achieved a major milestone on February 8th, when land acquisition for all tower sites was completed. MSCommNet is designed to use only 42 tower sites statewide and the State now has clear right, title, and interest in these required sites.

Land acquisition commenced in 2007 and by December 2008, only five sites were fully acquired. Executive sponsors determined that this slow rate of acquisition placed the project at high risk, as "right, title, and interest" in the requisite land is essential for building the system. In July 2009 project resources were redirected towards land acquisition and all site acquisition tasks are completed. Eleven sites were acquired during 2009, eleven during 2010, twelve during 2011, and the final three by February 2012. When possible, existing sites from the old state radio system were used. OIT entered into (17) formal interagency agreements (IAA's) with land holding State agencies to transfer rights to the new radio system, which will be maintained and operated by OIT's radio operations section. Other sites were acquired by the State entering into a long term lease arrangement with landowners (19). Only two sites were purchased outright - Sugarloaf Mountain and Fish Hill in Lincoln - as this was financially more advantageous for the State.

As with any radio communications project, there are three critical components: funding, tower sites, and radio spectrum. The Legislature has



funded the project and land acquisition is now complete.

The remaining challenge to the project is acquisition of sufficient radio frequency spectrum from the Federal Communications Commission. A major effort along this critical path of the project plan is currently underway, to gain State access to excess spare frequencies currently assigned to the railroads. In support of this effort, the FCC received an impressive salvo of official letters of support from: The Governor; Senate President and Speaker of the House; The Adjutant General; Commissioner of Corrections; Director of Maine Emergency Management Agency; MEMA County Directors Council; State Fire Marshal; the Colonels of State Police, Game Wardens, and Marine Patrol; as well as from the United States Coast Guard and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. A letter of support from Maine's Congressional delegation is also forthcoming.

The new MSCommNet system is a constellation of interconnected radio tower sites across the state that will provide statewide radio communications operability for State law enforcement, public safety, and public service agencies (State Police, Game Wardens, Marine Patrol, Forest Rangers, and other agencies); and, radio communications interoperability with local, county, tribal, and Federal public safety partners.

Source: Tom Driscoll, MSCommNet Project Office, February 4, 2012

CONOPS & PL Tones

It is very important that when you program your radio to **not** program these frequencies with private line (PL) tones. The purpose of CONOPS is to have simple interoperable channels that all agencies will recognize and utilize at all times.

MSCommNet Outreach Sessions

(Statewide radio network upgrade)

Hosted by the Maine State Office of
Information Technology (OIT)

MSCommNet is OIT's Maine State
Communications Network project



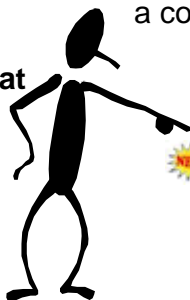
The formal presentation will take
approximately 60 minutes with ample time
for questions and answers.

Purpose of the sessions. The purpose of each session is to provide an update on the State's public safety radio communications project. The last statewide outreach sessions were held in October 2009. Technical information will be provided and we continue to seek feedback from local law enforcement, public safety, public service officials, and others who are interested in the state's radio network upgrade. We will answer questions relevant to the interoperability of MSCommNet as it relates to non-state agencies. The speakers will field questions regarding technical and operational details and provide other information to those in attendance.

About the project. The State continues to move forward in the process to develop and commission a unified land mobile radio network for State law enforcement, public safety, and public service agencies. The new system will utilize portions of the State's existing communications infrastructure and provide a modern technical foundation that addresses current and future technical needs, regulatory compliance and business requirements.

Sessions will run from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. at
the following locations

- Augusta Monday March 26th
Central Maine Commerce Center
(CMCC), Florian Hall
- Presque Isle Tuesday March 27th
UMPI, St. John & Aroostook Room
@Campus Center
- Orono Wednesday March 28th
UMO, Hill Auditorium
- Portland Friday March 30th
USM, University Events Room



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Border Interoperability Guide (BIG)

The first edition of the Border Guide is being distributed to the Counties along the border for revisions and corrections. Thanks for all those that have contributed to this epic field operation guide. Please contact me if you would like to have a copy.

 [Signup for the SCIP Newsletter](#)

Contribute to the SCIP Newsletter?

If you would like to contribute articles for upcoming SCIP Newsletters to highlight innovative practices in your respective counties and/or areas, please contact Steven.mallory@maine.gov

